

REMARKS

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 1-19 were pending prior to this amendment. By this Amendment:
Claims 1-10 and 14 have been canceled.
Claims 11, 15 and 18 have been amended.
Claims 20 and 21 have been added, and are now presented for consideration.
No new matter has been introduced by this Amendment.

II. Objections to the Claims:

Claim 11-13 and 15-17 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 11 and 15 were indicated by the Examiner as containing allowable subject matter. Claim 11 has been rewritten to include independent claim 1 and any intervening claims. Claim 15 has also been rewritten to include independent claim 1 and any intervening claims. All other claims, including newly added claims 20 and 21, depend from either claim 11 or 15. Therefore, Applicants believe that claims 11-13 and 15-21 are in condition for allowance, and as a result, any previous objections should be withdrawn.

III. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a):

Claims 1-5, 9-10, 18-19 have been rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over US 6,343,864 to Tajiri (hereafter "Tajiri") in view of US 5,579,138 to Sannohe (hereafter "Sannohe").

Claims 1-10 and 14 have been rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over US 6,648,478 to Katsumata et al. (hereafter "Katsumata") in view of Sannohe.

Claims 1-10 and 14 have been canceled, rendering the rejection to those claims moot. Claims 11 and 15 were indicated by the Examiner as containing allowable subject matter, and have been rewritten in independent form. Claim 18 has been amended to depend from claim 11, and thereby include the allowable subject matter of claim 11. Therefore, Applicants believe that claims 11-13 and 15-19 are in condition for allowance, and as a result, any previous rejections should be withdrawn.

IV. New Claims:

New claims 20 and 21 depend from claim 15. Applicants believe that claims 20 and 21 are allowable for the same reasons presented above in regard to claim 15.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of both the objections and rejections of claims and the allowance of this application.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 13-4503, Order No. 1232-5271. A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4503, Order No. 1232-5271. A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: August 25, 2005 .

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